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SCHAKOWSKY HAILS PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION THAT RESTORES A MEASURE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY TO IMMIGRATION LAW

H.R. 5062 WOULD FIX HARSH DEPORTATION PROVISIONS AFFECTING LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS &

H.R. 2883 WOULD CONFER AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP TO ADOPTED FOREIGN BORN CHILDREN OF U.S. CITIZENS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today hailed the passage of two bills that restore a measure of fairness and equity to immigration law.

H.R. 5062 is a bill that would repeal harsh deportation provisions included in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Control and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA). H.R. 5062 would change the law so that legal permanent residents who have committed minor crimes prior to the enactment of the 1996 laws would not be deported. Also included in H.R. 5062 is a provision that would allow immigrants who have already been deported under the retroactive provisions to apply for readmission to the United States, thus allowing reunification of families.

"People who are in the United States legally should not have to live under a different set of rules. Paying the price for committing a minor infraction should not mean a one way ticket out of the United States," Schakowsky said.

Under H.R. 5062, a legal permanent resident, who entered the United States in 1970 and was later convicted for shoplifting in 1985, and fully served his sentence, would be deported because of the 1996 immigration law. The permanent resident would be thrown into deportation proceedings and would not be allowed to apply for relief to stay in the United States.

"The provisions in the 1996 immigration law devastated families, causing many legal immigrants to live away from their children, spouses, and parents. H.R. 5062 is a critical step in righting the wrongs of the 1996 immigration law," Schakowsky added.

H.R. 2883 would confer automatic citizenship to adopted foreign-born children of U.S. citizens. Currently, in addition to the extensive paperwork that U.S. citizens must complete to finalize the adoption of their foreign born child, they must fill out additional paperwork for citizenship.

"As the aunt of Korean born Jamie and Natalie, I strongly identify with this issue. With

the passage of H.R. 2883, we are sending a clear message to American parents that, should they choose to adopt a child from another country, U.S. citizenship will be awaiting that child once he or she sets foot on U.S. soil," Schakowsky said.